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XXIII.—*Notes on Birds observed in Oudh and Kumaon.*

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(Plate VII.)

THE following notes were made in Oudh, from October 1857 to August 1860, with the exception of about two months, from April 15th to June 15th, 1859, during which time I was in the British Himalayan province of Kumaon. During the first part of the time, in Oudh, the disadvantage of being in an enemy's country (for a long time without any kit) prevented my making notes; and many specimens which I obtained and skinned were lost or destroyed, either by insects or through being continually on the march.

The province of Oudh is well situated for an ornithologist, containing every variety of soil; and bordering on the Nepalese hills is the "Terai" forest—a part very little explored, except by tiger-shooting sportsmen. The intense heat in the hot and rainy season confines a European to his bungalow, except for a couple of hours in the morning and evening; and even in the "cold season," from October to March inclusive, it is unpleasantly warm at mid-day; so that, on the whole, the disadvantages preponderate.

The names here employed are the same as those used by Mr. Blyth in his 'Catalogue of the Birds of the Asiatic Society's Museum'; and, unless otherwise stated, the notes apply to birds observed in Oudh.

1. *PALÆORNIS ALEXANDRI*.

Common, in large flocks, in the Terai jungle, at the foot of the hills, during the cold season. It is known to the natives as the Hill-Parroquet.

2. *PALÆORNIS TORQUATUS*.

Excessively abundant throughout the year; more particularly so at the middle and end of the rainy season. Breeds in the holes of trees.

3. *PALÆORNIS CYANOCEPHALUS*.

Common in the cold season in jungly districts: probably resorts to the hills during the hot weather, as I did not then notice it in Oudh, and it was common in the valleys of Kumaon in May and June 1859.

4. *FALCO JUGGER*. (Male "Jugger," female "Luggur".)

Seen and killed at Alumbagh, in January 1858. I observed what I supposed to have been this Falcon upon many other occasions in the cold season. It is much used by the native falconers, but is rather deficient in pluck, as compared with the Peregrine Falcon.

5. *FALCO BABYLONICUS*. (Plate VII.)

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A single specimen of this Falcon was obtained in October 1858, at Newabgunge Bara Bunki, Oudh, and is now in the Norwich Museum. Mr. Selater has kindly supplied me with the following remarks upon this hitherto undescribed bird:—

"Capt. Irby's specimen seems to be referable to a new species or distinct variety of true Falcon, most nearly allied to *Falco barbarus* (of 'The Ibis,' 1859, p. 184, pl. 6; *Falco peregrinoides* of Temminck), for which Mr. Gurney proposes to use the name *Falco babylonicus*, the first specimen of it having been obtained in Babylonia by the Euphrates Exploring Expedition.

"The coloration of *F. babylonicus* is nearly similar to that of *F. barbarus*, but generally lighter, and rather more rufous on the front of the head: the size, however, is nearly one-third greater, being the same as that of *F. lanarius* of Schlegel. From the latter bird it may be distinguished—(1.) By the absence of the whitish frontal band, the rufous of the vertex extending forwards on to

the cere, and being bordered behind by a broad band of dark slaty-brown, which divides it from the rufous of the nape. (2.) By the feathers on the back of the neck below the nape being bordered with rufous of the same tinge as on the nape. This edging is sometimes present in *F. barbarus*, but never to the same extent in *F. lanarius*. (3.) By the comparative absence of spots on the upper portion of the lower surface, in which character it nearly agrees with the Abyssinian form of *F. lanarius*, which I take to be strictly Lichtenstein's *F. tanypterus*. The middle claw of *F. babylonicus* is longer than that of *F. lanarius*, in which respect it also approaches to the structure of *F. barbarus*. Judging from the partial remains of the immature plumage in one specimen, it would appear that in this stage the bird most nearly resembles *F. peregrinus*, in which particular it also agrees with *F. barbarus*.

"Besides Capt. Irby's specimen (No. 1), I am acquainted with the following individuals, referable to *F. babylonicus* :—

"2. An example in partially immature plumage, already alluded to as procured by the Euphrates Exploring Expedition in Babylonia, and presented by Commander Jones to the Museum of the East India Company. This is one of the two specimens of '*F. peregrinator*' of Horsfield and Moore's Catalogue of the Birds of that Collection, entered as 'presented by Commander Jones;' the other of the two being apparently a young *F. peregrinus*—certainly not *F. peregrinator*.

"3. An adult specimen in the Norwich Museum, procured from M. Parzudaki of Paris, and said to be from Abyssinia.

"4. An adult specimen, also in the Norwich Museum, procured from Mr. Warwick, of which the locality is not known.

"I may remark that Mr. Blyth has lately (Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng. xxviii. p. 281) distinguished the Indian variety of the Peregrine from the European bird as *F. calidus*—the name being adopted from Latham, who, in his '*Index Ornithologicus*' (vol. i. p. 41), conferred that title upon the '*Bauri*' Falcon of India. The present bird, however, does not belong to the group of true Peregrines, but rather to that containing *F. lanarius*, Schlegel, *F. tanypterus*, Licht., *F. biarmicus*, Temm., and *F. barbarus*, Salvin.

"I annex the dimensions of the first three specimens of *F. babylonicus*, in inches and tenths :"—

Spec.	Locality.	Long. tota.	alæ.	caudæ.	tarsi.	dig. med.
1.	Oudh ..	17·3	13·	7·0	1·95	2·05
2.	Babylon .	17·0	12·5	6·6	1·95	1·95
3.	Abyssinia	18·0	12·8	6·5	2·00	1·95

6. *FALCO CHICQUERA*.

A common resident ; usually seen in the wooded parts of the country.

7. *HYPOTRIORCHIS SUBBUTEO*. (Hobby.)

Two seen in Oudh in September 1858.

8. *TINNUNCULUS ALAUDARIUS*. (Kestrel.)

Common throughout the cold season ; occasionally seen during the rains.

9. *TINNUNCULUS CENCHRIS*. (Lesser Kestrel.)

Seen in the cold season.

10. *ELANUS MELANOPTERUS*. (Black-winged Elanus.)

Not uncommon in woody country during the cold season, especially in the jungles near Khyreegurh.

11. *CIRCAËTUS GALLICUS*.

Seen occasionally in the cold season.

12. *CIRCUS ÆRUGINOSUS*. (Marsh Harrier.)

Most abundant during the cold season near all swamps and jheels : is very annoying to the wild-fowl shooter, driving up the ducks, but never seems to catch any but wounded ones. The adult birds are more frequently seen than the immature.

13. *CIRCUS SWAINSONII*. (Pallid Harrier.)

Very common in the cold season in open cultivated country.

14. *CIRCUS CINERASCENS*. (Montagu's Harrier.)

Found in the same localities as *C. swainsonii*, and is perhaps more numerous.

15. *CIRCUS MELANOLEUCOS*. (Pied Harrier.)

Very abundant near the rivers Choka and Gogra, on the plains

covered with thick grass about two feet high. I have never seen this Harrier far away from grass jungles, where it appears to replace the two preceding species, although they are now and then seen there also.

16. *POLIORNIS TEESA*.

Very common on sandy plains; seldom seen among trees. This Hawk remains throughout the year; but I did not find its nest. When disturbed, it flies generally quite close to the ground, and utters a low plaintive cry, seldom going further than a hundred yards before settling again. It feeds on beetles and insects. The irides are of a light-red colour.

17. *ACCIPITER NISUS*. (Sparrow-hawk.)

Occurred at Alumbagh in January 1858.

18. *MICRONISUS BADIUS*.

A specimen, killed at Newabgunge in September 1858, is in the Norwich Museum; it is not an uncommon bird.

19. *AQUILA NÆVIODES*. (Tawny Eagle.)

Abundant on sandy plains, especially those frequented by the Antelope (*Antelope cervicapra*): and occasionally seen near cantonments in company with the Neophron and Govinda Kite. I once saw it sharing some carrion with one of the Red-headed Vultures (*Otogyps calvus*). Though this Eagle is resident, I could not obtain a nest. I imagine that it breeds during the hottest part of the year, when it is impossible to go bird-nesting. Owing to the strong habits of deceitfulness of the natives, no reliance can be placed upon them, if sent out to get eggs. They invariably try to deceive; but their European brethren in trade are often nearly as bad; so that the Asiatic must not come in for all the black paint.

20. *AQUILA NÆVIA*. (Spotted Eagle.)

Occasionally found in the same localities as the preceding species: only once observed in the spotted plumage, in February 1859.

21. *ICTINAËTUS MALAYENSIS*. (Black Eagle.)

I killed a fine specimen of this bird on the 20th of April, 1859, near Ramgurh, between Nynce Tal and Almorah, in Kumaon. I

noticed one other at an elevation of nearly 10,000 feet, about fifteen or twenty miles from Milum, one of the passes into Thibet. This Eagle cannot be a very common bird in Kumaon, as during two months there I only saw these two. The specimen which I obtained, which is now in the Norwich Museum, had the inside of the mouth and throat covered with small pieces of egg-shell, apparently that of the Cheer (*Phasianus wallichii*), or Chickore (*Caccabis chukar*); hence, of course, Jerdon's synonym "*ovivorus*." Is not this bird nearly allied to the Honey Buzzards? The European species (*Pernis apivora*) has been known to feed, in a wild state, on Thrushes' eggs (Zool. p. 3707), and the Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) has also been found to do the same. The irides of the Black Eagle are yellow.

22. BUTEO RUFINUS. (Long-legged Buzzard.)

Common near wooded jungle. I took four large rats (swallowed whole) out of the stomach of one. The irides of this Buzzard are golden-coloured.

23. PANDION HALIAËTUS. (Osprey.)

Not observed in Oudh, but doubtless occurs there, as it is "common throughout India in all suitable localities" according to Mr. Blyth's Catalogue. I obtained it at Nynce Tal, at an elevation of about 5500 feet, in June 1859, when it was frequently seen there. The shikarees, or native hunters, told me that it nested at Bheem Tal, another mountain lake at a lower elevation, fifteen miles from Nynce Tal.

24. HALIAËTUS MACEI. (Mace's Sea Eagle.)

Irides dark brown. This "Sea" Eagle is very common in Oudh in the cold season, and always seen in the vicinity of rivers and jheels; it makes a very large nest of sticks, on tall trees close to water. I never obtained the eggs myself, though some men of my regiment took the eggs on the 19th of November, 1859, but ate them on the spot, to my intense disgust.

I repeatedly found the young in January and February. There were never more than two, and sometimes only one, in each nest; hence I conclude the number of eggs to be usually two. I brought up three young birds, one of which (pinioned) lived for eighteen months. The other two used to sit on the top of my

tent and fly about the camp quite tamely, but they disappeared when the hot weather began to come on. The one pinioned showed, at the time of its death, no signs of the adult plumage. This Eagle, when I have been out shooting, has often carried off ducks and snipes, &c. which I had shot.

I have little doubt that this Eagle is identical with Pallas's Sea Eagle (*H. leucoryphus*), which I saw in the Crimea*. I brought home a sternum from that country, and also one from Oudh; these are in the Norwich Museum. At the request of Mr. Gurney, Mr. Alfred Newton has kindly examined them, and reports as follows: "I have received your note, and also the two sterna from the Norwich Museum, marked respectively 'Oudh' and 'Crimea,' which, according to your wish, I have examined attentively.

"Presuming the *Haliaëtus macei* and the *H. leucoryphus* are birds of the same size, I should suppose, from these specimens, that the Indian was that of a female, and the Crimean that of a male. Comparing them closely, I find that, notwithstanding the general resemblance, there exists a great difference in the proportions of the parts which make up the entire sternal apparatus.

"This may be best shown in the following manner:—

	Oudh specimen. inches.	Crimean specimen. inches.
Entire length of sternal apparatus .	7·27	6·79
Extreme length of sternum proper .	5·15	4·76
Extreme length of coracoid	2·24	3·05

"Thus, while the ratio of the sternum proper in each is within ·04 inch in *direct* proportion to the entire length of the sternal apparatus, the ratio of the coracoids differs by ·6 inch in *inverse* proportion.

"Such a discrepancy as this I have never yet found in the sterna of what I should consider to be examples of the same species; and should the difference be constant, it would go far, in my mind, towards making me believe *H. macei* to be distinct from *H. leucoryphus*; but I do not think one can judge sufficiently from the evidence at present before me.

* Vide 'Zoologist,' vol. xv. p. 5353.

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"I do not attach much importance to the fact that the posterior part of the Indian specimen shows two orifices which are wanting in the Crimean example, because I think that the absence of these holes in the Eagles generally indicates a degree of maturity perhaps seldom, though certainly sometimes arrived at. I may add, however, that it is usual for species of the restricted genus *Aquila* to possess these holes, while I never before saw them in any example of *Haliaëtus*."

This report is decidedly in favour of the species being distinct; but I hope some one may soon procure a European specimen, which will decide the matter.

25. *HALIASTUR INDUS*. (Brahminy Kite.)

Abundant throughout the year, feeding almost entirely on fish and frogs. I did not obtain a nest. This species was common at the Island of Banca in July 1857.

26. *MILVUS GOVINDA*. (Govinda Kite.)

In the Catalogue of the Birds of the Asiatic Society's Museum this Kite is called *M. ater*—being perhaps confounded with *M. migrans* (the Black Kite), a species which, I believe, has not yet been noticed in India.

The Govinda Kite is found in swarms near all cantonments, particularly those in which the carnivorous European troops are quartered. I have seen certainly more than a hundred on the wing at a time; and the time of the men's meals could always be told by the Kites being in motion and on the *qui vive* for the scraps of meat and bones which are thrown away. They have been known to snatch meat off a plate which a servant was carrying from the cook-house to the mess-room; occasionally they may be seen catching fish in company with the Brahminy Kite and the small Black-bellied Tern (*Sterna javanica*). They nest on tall trees in the cold season; but I did not obtain the eggs—not thinking I should leave the country so suddenly. The Govinda Kite is common in the valleys of Kumaon and at Nynee Tal.

27. *OTOGYPS CALVUS*. ("King Vulture" of European residents.)

Found throughout the year, and breeds on tall trees at the end

of the cold season. An egg, obtained in February 1859, was rather rough on the surface, white in colour, with a few pale-bluish spots on the larger end. This Vulture does not collect in flocks like the two following species, seldom more than two or three being seen together: it was seen occasionally in Kumaon in May and June. I noticed another large Vulture in Kumaon, which I imagine to have been *V. monachus*, but I could not obtain one for examination.

28. GYPS INDICUS.

This species and the next are equally common throughout the year. One was captured in a rather curious way at Alumbagh: the Vulture had made a hole in a dead horse's belly, and poking his head in, was caught before he could extricate himself.

29. GYPS BENGALENSIS.

30. NEOPHRON PERCNOPTERUS. (Egyptian Neophron.)

Found in great numbers near all towns and cantonments. Nests on trees in the cold season. Has the taste, in common with pigs and adjutants (*Leptoptilus argala*), to prefer human excrement to any other food. Was frequently seen in the valleys of Kumaon, and is common at Nynee Tal and Almorah. This Neophron is very seldom, if ever, seen at Calcutta; yet it is common at Aden and at St. Vincent's, one of the Cape de Verd Islands, both places being in a latitude south of Calcutta.

31. GYPAËTOS BARBATUS. (Lammergeyer.)

Common in Kumaon, especially near Almorah and Nynee Tal, where it appears to feed almost exclusively on carrion. All Europeans, not ornithologists, call it the "Golden Eagle,"—probably on account of the reddish tinge on the breast, which is very apparent when the bird is on the wing.

The other species of Diurnal Raptores said to inhabit India are :—

1. *Falco sacer*. Nepal. 1862 32
2. *F. peregrinus*; or, if the Indian species be distinct, *F. calidus*. India generally.
3. *F. peregrinator*. India generally.
4. *Hypotriorchis severus*. Bengal and Himalayas.

5. *Hierax eutolmos*. Nepal ; Darjeeling.
6. *Baza lophotes*. India.
7. *Pernis cristata*. India.
8. *P. apivora*. Nepal ?
9. *Hæmatornis cheela*. India generally.
10. *Circus cyaneus*. Nepal.
11. *Astur virgatus*. India generally. Darjeeling.
12. *A. palumbarius*. Nepal.
13. *A. trivirgatus*. Hilly parts of India.
14. *Spizaëtus nipalensis*. Himalayas.
15. *S. limnaëtus*. India generally.
16. *S. kieneri*. Himalayas. Central India.
17. *Eutolmæetus bonellii*. Himalayas.
18. *Aquila chrysaëtus*. Himalayas.
19. *A. imperialis*. Himalayas.
20. *Hieraëtus pennatus*.
21. *Buteo vulgaris* ? Nilgiris and Himalayas.
22. *Pontoaëtus ichthyaëtus*. Bengal.
23. *Blagrus leucogaster*. India generally.
24. *Milvus affinis*. India generally.
25. *Vultur monachus*. Himalayas.
26. *Gyps fulvus*. Himalayas.

32. BUBO BENGALENSIS.

Seen in February 1860.

33. ASIO BRACHYOTUS. (Short-eared Owl.)

Very common in the cold season. I have flushed as many as ten at once, in long grass.

34. SCOPS BAKKAMÆNA.

Occasionally seen in the cold season.

35. ATHENE BRAMA.

Very common throughout the year; chiefly resorting to mango topes.

36. STRIX FLAMMEA. (White Owl.)

Assuming the Indian and British species to be identical, this Owl is very common in Oudh ; its habits are the same as in England, the cry, or rather screech, being exactly similar.

37. GLAUX JAVANICA.

Obtained in the open country in the cold season.

The other Nocturnal Raptores said to inhabit India, not including the Malay countries, are :—

1. *Bubo orientalis*. Himalaya ; S. India.
2. *B. maximus*. Nepal.
3. *B. umbratus*. India generally.
4. *Asio otus*. Nepal ?
5. *Scops lempiji*. Himalaya.
6. *Ketupa flavipes*. Himalaya.
7. *K. ceylonensis*. India generally.
8. *Ninox scutellatus*. India generally.
9. *Athene cuculoides*. Himalaya.
10. *A. noctua* ? Himalaya.
11. *A. brodiei*. Himalaya.
12. *Syrnium indranee*. India generally.
13. *S. sinense*. India generally.
14. *S. nivicolum*. Himalaya.
15. *Phodilus badius*. Himalaya.

38. BUCEROS BIROSTRIS.

Common in wood jungle during the cold season, especially in the Terai, near the foot of the Nepalese hills.

39. UPUPA EPOPS. (Hoopoe.)

Common throughout the year ; nesting in roofs of houses and in chimneys during April and May.

40. HALCYON GURIAL.

I obtained a specimen, in December 1859, at a jheel in a thickly wooded country near Khyreegur ; I never noticed it again.

41. HALCYON SMYRNENSIS.

Exceedingly common throughout the year, frequenting jheels more than rivers.

42. CERYLE GUTTATUS.

Frequently seen in Kumaon in May 1859, and was very difficult to approach.

43. CERYLE RUDIS. ("Dobie Bird.")

Very common in the cold season: is called the "Dobie Bird" from being so often observed near where the "Dobies" or native washermen are at work. It is generally seen hovering in the air like a Kestrel, and, pouncing down like a stone, will go quite under water. The cry of this bird is loud, shrill, and incessantly repeated.

44. ALCEDO BENGALENSIS.

This beautiful miniature of our English Kingfisher is not seen nearly so often as the preceding species, or *Halcyon smyrnensis*, and, unlike the latter, prefers running streams. The most splendidly coloured of the Indian Kingfishers, *H. coromanda*, did not come under my notice, and probably is not found in Oudh.

45. CORACIAS INDICA. (Indian Roller.)

Called "Blue Jay" by Europeans, and "*Neel Kánt*" (Blue Crow) by the natives. Is seen in great numbers throughout the year, and breeds in roofs of houses and in holes of trees. They perform the same aerial antics as *C. garrula*, but are much more noisy, and very annoying during the breeding-season, in May and June. They make holes for their nests in the thatch of bungalows, and used to create such a disturbance, that I kept a gun ready-loaded for them; but it was labour in vain—no sooner was one pair disposed of than others appeared. This species certainly interbreeds with the more southern and eastern *C. affinis*, as there are specimens in the Calcutta Museum, evidently hybrids. The European *C. garrula* has been killed at Mooltan, and also in Affghanistan.

46. MEROPS PHILIPPINUS.

Seen in the hot season, but not in any numbers.

47. MEROPS VIRIDIS. (Green Bee-eater.)

Excessively numerous throughout the year: ten or more may often be seen sitting on the same bush; and on the telegraph wires on the Grand Trunk Road, I once saw, in the early morning, upwards of fifty within twenty yards. In one habit this bird resembles our Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa griseola*): it is incessantly flying a few feet in chase of insects, and settling

again on its former perch. When on the wing, its plumage glistening in the sun, it is seen much more to advantage than when at rest. Like theatrical scenery and Eastern cities, it looks best at a distance.

48. *GEVINUS FLAVINUCHUS*.

I killed a specimen of this very handsome Woodpecker on June 12, 1859, on one of the lower hills between Nynsee Tal and Kaleedoughee, in Kumaon.

49. *BRACHYPTERNUS AURANTIUS*.

Common. There were other species of Woodpeckers which I did not identify. Not knowing that I should leave the country so soon, I neglected to keep the specimens obtained, hoping to get better ones.

50. *PICUS HIMALAYANUS*.

Common in Kumaon.

51. *YUNX TORQUILLA*. (Wryneck.)

A specimen of this bird was brought alive to me by a native birdcatcher in August 1858.

52. *MEGALEMA VIRENS*.

Frequently observed in Kumaon in April, May, and June. It is generally to be seen on the top of some tall tree, uttering its peculiar piercing whistle.

53. *MEGALEMA PHILIPPENSIS*.

Noticed only once, near Newabgunge, in November 1858.

54. *CUCULUS CANORUS*. (Common Cuckoo.)

Occasionally seen, or rather heard, in Oudh. I heard it in August, and shot an immature specimen in October 1859, and again heard it several times in June and July 1860, the thermometer at the time ranging from 95° to 105° in the shade, and a hot wind blowing.

It is a very common bird in Kumaon in April, May, and June, and is known to the hill-men under the name of "*Kupwah*," which, like most native names of birds, is evidently derived from its cry.

55. EUDYNAMIS ORIENTALIS.

Common; arriving in April, and frequenting mango topes. The note of this bird is very loud and peculiar; it is often heard throughout the night.

56. OXYLOPHUS COROMANDUS.

Seen in Kumaon in May 1859.

57. CENTROPUS PHILIPPENSIS.

Common in thick jungle; particularly in the bamboo jungle round villages.

A species of *Caprimulgus* was common in Oudh, and also in Kumaon; but I did not identify it. This was also the case with a species of *Acanthylis*, and many other birds.

58. CORVUS CULMINATUS.

Exceedingly common in Kumaon, where the next species is not seen.

59. CORVUS SPLENDENS.

Exceedingly common and impertinent, entering houses, stealing meat, &c., off the table, horridly noisy, and of generally disagreeable habits.

60. DENDROCITTA RUFA.

Common wherever there are any trees. The note of this bird is a very peculiar whistle, somewhat thus: *Kook-koo-kool-a-lee*.

61. PSILORHINUS OCCIPITALIS.

This handsome bird is very common in Kumaon.

62. GARRULUS GULARIS.

Common in Kumaon.

63. GARRULAX LEUCOLOPHUS.

Frequently seen in the valleys of Kumaon, in small flocks of seven or eight, in May 1859: is a conspicuous bird from its white head.

64. GARRULAX ALBOGULARIS.

Found in Kumaon in May 1859.

65. GRACULA INTERMEDIA.

Seen in Kumaon in May.

66. *ACRIDOTHERES TRISTIS*. (The Common Myna of Oudh.)

Found throughout the year. Nests during the rains in holes of trees and in the roofs of houses. The young become very tame, and will follow the person who feeds them.

67. *STURNUS CONTRA*. (Pied Myna.)

Common throughout the year.

68. *STURNUS VULGARIS*. (Starling.)

Found in immense flocks in January and February; generally seen in company with *Pastor roseus*, amongst cattle.

69. *STURNIA PAGODARUM*.

Not so common as *Sturnus contra*, but fluctuates in number very much.

70. *PASTOR ROSEUS*. (Rose-coloured Pastor.)

Common in flocks in January and February. All the specimens which I examined were of a much paler rose-colour than those which I have seen in the Crimea, where it was very common in May and June.

71. *PASSER INDICUS*.

Common: resembling exactly in habits our *P. domesticus*. Nesting in May and June. The Indian species is lighter in colour than ours, as regards the females and immature males; but I have seen English specimens quite as light. The adult male is redder on the back.

72. *PETRONIA FLAVICOLLIS*.

Common in the rainy and cold seasons.

73. *CALANDRELLA BRACHYDACTYLA*. (Short-toed Lark.)

Exceedingly numerous: is caught in nets by the natives and sold to Europeans, to whom it is generally known by the name of "Ortolan."

There were one or two species of *Anthus* which I did not identify.

74. *GALERIDA CRISTATA*. (Crested Lark.)

Common.

75. *MOTACILLA MADERASPATENSIS*.

Common during the cold season.

76. MOTACILLA BOARULA. (Grey Wagtail.)

Seen in the cold season.

77. BUDYTES VIRIDIS.

Very common in marshes during the cold season.

78. MALACOCERCUS BENGALENSIS.

Common throughout the year.

79. CHRYSOMMA HYPOLEUCUM.

One specimen was brought to me alive in August 1858.

80. LANIUS LAHTORA.

Occasionally noticed.

81. LANIUS HARDWICKII.

Very common.

82. ENICURUS MACULATUS.

Seen in Kumaon in April 1859.

I also shot a species of Dipper, probably *Cinclus asiaticus*; but the skin was accidentally destroyed before I could identify it.

83. MYIOPHONUS TEMMINCKII.

Common in Kumaon in May 1859, and rather solitary in its habits.

84. TURDUS VISCIVORUS. (Missel Thrush.)

Common in Kumaon, though sometimes considered to be a distinct species (*T. hodgsonii*).

85. MERULA BOULBOUL.

Common in Kumaon in May. I observed a flock of eight or ten in the Terai jungle near Khyreegur, Oudh, in December 1859.

86. CYANECULA SUECICA. (Indian Blue-throated Warbler.)

Common in the hot season. I never saw the white-spotted species in India.

87. RUTICILLA LEUCOCEPHALA.

Extremely common in Kumaon. I never observed this bird except close to streams, and generally sitting on some stone in the midst of a torrent: I never saw it perch on a bush or tree.

Another species, probably *R. rufiventris*, was very common in Oudh throughout the year, frequenting bushy jungle.

88. *STOPAROLA MELANOPS*. (Blue Fly-catcher.)

Common near Nynee Tal. Not seen in Oudh.

89. *CERTHIA HIMALAYANA*.

Seen in Kumaon.

90. *HIRUNDO RUSTICA*.

1866 91. *HIRUNDO URBICA*.

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92. *HIRUNDO SINENSIS*.

} Common in the cold season.

93. *TCHITREA PARADISEA*. (Paradise Fly-catcher.)

Common in Kumaon in May 1859. Not observed in Oudh.

94. *LEUCOCIRCA ALBOFRONTATA*.

Common throughout the year: generally seen in mango topes.

A species of Bulbul (*Pycnonotus*) was common both in Oudh and Kumaon, but I did not identify it.

95. *ORIOLOS KUNDU*.

Common in the hot season, frequenting mango topes. I did not see *O. melanocephalus* in Oudh, but I have seen a specimen from Allahabad.

96. *TRERON CHLOROGASTER*.

Common in Oudh throughout the year.

97. *SPHENOCERCUS CANTILLANS*.

Found in Kumaon wherever there were trees. Both this species and the preceding are excellent eating.

98. *ALSOCOMUS HODGSONII*.

Frequently seen in Kumaon in April and May: at that time some nested in inaccessible cliffs near Moonsheyaree, about 70 miles from Almorah.

Two species of *Columba* are common in Oudh: one very much like the Stock Dove, *Columba ænas*, and the other resembling the Rock Dove, *C. livia*, except that it settles on trees. The latter is not found west of the rivers Gogra and Choka. I unluckily did not identify these two species.

99. *TURTUR RISORIVS*.

Common throughout the year in Oudh, and was equally numerous in the valleys of Kumaon in April, May, and June 1859.

100. *TURTUR SURATENSIS*.

Abundant throughout the year. A pair nested in my garden at Seetapore in May 1860. The nest and eggs resembled those of our British *T. auritus*, only, of course, being diminished in size. This species of Turtle Dove and the next are equally numerous in villages and wild unfrequented jungle; but *T. risorius* and *T. orientalis* are much less familiar birds, never entering villages, and are much wilder.

101. *T. SENEGALENSIS*.

This beautiful little Dove is exceedingly common throughout the year.

102. *T. ORIENTALIS*.

Common during the cold season.

103. *PAVO CRISTATUS*. (Pea-fowl.)

Found in numbers wherever there is any woody jungle: breeds during the rainy season. The male bird begins to lose his train in September, and does not fully regain it till March or April. The Pea-fowl remains during the heat of the day in the depths of the jungle, and goes to the fields at the edges to feed morning and evening: the cock bird in the breeding-time may be heard calling throughout the night. The number of Pea-fowl in the Terai jungles near Khyreegur is wonderful; they are much tamer there than in any other part of Oudh. The young are very difficult to rear—at least I could not succeed; they lived for six months, but then pined off. I saw some splendidly-coloured hybrids in Calcutta between this bird and the Malayan Pea-fowl, *P. muticus*.

104. *CERIORNIS SATYRA*. (Löönghee.)

Found in Kumaon, on the lofty hills near the snows.

105. *GALLUS FERRUGINEUS*. (Jungle-fowl.)

Common in the Terai jungles; not observed in Central or Western Oudh.

106. *EUPLOCOMUS ALBOCRISTATUS*. (Kallidge Pheasant.)

Common in Kumaon in the lower hills and in valleys.

107. *PUCRASIA MACROLOPHA*. (Kokloss.)

Common in Kumaon, at a higher elevation than the Kallidge Pheasant, which is replaced in its turn by the Cheer at a still greater height.

108. *PHASIANUS WALLICHII*. (Cheer.)

Also called by Europeans the "Golden Pheasant." Common in Kumaon: nesting in May.

109. *LOPHOPHORUS IMPEYANUS*. (Monâl.)

Found in great numbers on the higher hills in Kumaon, and seems to keep just at the edge of the snow. It is at first a difficult bird to shoot, flying downhill, as all the Himalayan Pheasants do, at a most tremendous rate; a little practice, however, will soon enable one to kill them; but at the time of year I saw them, I only shot two or three, as they were beginning to lay. The flesh of the Monâl in May was not very good—nothing equal to our English pheasant; but the time of year might have caused this. The best-flavoured Himalayan Pheasants are the Cheer and Kokloss, according to the judgment of confirmed epicures. The Monâl, in England, is, I see, called the Impeyan: why not retain its native name of Monâl, which is certainly shorter, and possibly less of a mouthful?

110. *PTEROCLES ARENARIUS*. (Big Sand Grouse.)

Two or three large flocks were seen near Hurdue in January 1860, and many killed. Both the species of the Indian Sand Grouse which I have tasted are uncatable, and in this respect certainly tend to confirm what the natives say, "that they live upon sand."

111. *PTEROCLES EXUSTUS*. (Common Sand Grouse.)

Very common on sandy plains, from January to July inclusive. I found two eggs in June, both addled. There was no nest, the eggs being merely laid on the bare sand. They very closely resembled, in size, colour, and markings, the eggs of *Caprimulgus europæus*. There were no trees or bushes within two miles of the spot; if there had been, I should have referred the eggs

to some species of Goatsucker, from their appearance. All the Indian Sand Grouse are indiscriminately called "Rock-Pigeons" by Europeans.

112. *FRANCOLINUS VULGARIS*. (Black Partridge.)

This very handsome Partridge is found in great numbers in all grass jungle near water, and is particularly numerous on the banks of the Gogra, Choka, and other large rivers. Good sport is to be had with them in November, in the *huldee* or turmeric fields. This Partridge was common in Kumaon in April, May, and June; its call was to be heard wherever there was any cultivation.

113. *CACCABIS CHUKAR*. (Chickore.)

Common in Kumaon on bare and rocky hill-sides: is very common at a place called Jullut or Moonsheyaree, seven days' march from Almorah. The flesh of the Chickore is considered good. The eggs, brought to me in May, resembled those of *Perdix cinerea*, not having any spots or markings like those of *Caccabis rufa*.

114. *PERDIX PONTICERIANA*. (Grey Partridge.)

Common throughout the year: breeds in July and August: has acquired the unenviable name of "Dung-bird," probably from feeding on the beetles and insects which feed on the refuse of camps. Its flesh is dry and scarcely eatable, being a degree worse than that of the Black Partridge. Both the Grey and Black Partridge will settle on trees when flushed, though the latter very seldom does so.

115. *ARBORICOLA TORQUEOLA*. (Peurah.)

Abundant in Kumaon, in the woody and more elevated ranges. Is easily decoyed within shot by imitating its whistle, which resembles somewhat the words "*poor boy*" two or three times repeated.

116. *PERDICULA ASIATICA*.

Common in jungle: rather difficult to flush.

117. *COTURNIX VULGARIS*. (Common Quail.)

Exceedingly numerous during the cold and first part of the hot season.

118. *C. COROMANDELICA*. (Rain Quail.)

Common during the rainy season.

A species of *Turnix* is common in Oudh in the cold season, but I did not retain a specimen for identification.

119. *SYMPHEOTIDES BENGALENSIS*. (Florican of Bengal.)

Exceedingly local, and then not numerous: never found but in grass jungle: to kill eight in a day in Oudh would be a good bag. This Florican well deserves the synonym "*deliciosa*."

A large species of Bustard is sometimes seen in Oudh, particularly at a place called Jallalnügger, on the Goomtee; I never could obtain a specimen, but think it must have been *Eupodotis edwardsii*.

120. *SYMPHEOTIDES AURITUS*. (Leek Florican.)

Occurred near Seetapore in June 1860.

121. *GLAREOLA ORIENTALIS*.

Seen at Alumbagh in January 1858.

122. *CURSORIUS COROMANDELICUS*.

Found throughout the year on sandy plains; generally in pairs.

123. *ESACUS RECURVIROSTRIS*.

Found in small flocks on the large rivers during the cold season.

124. *ÆDIDNEMUS CREPITANS*. (Norfolk Plover.)

Common throughout the year in thin, low, woody jungle. Nests in July.

125. *HOPLOPTERUS VENTRALIS*.

Very common on the sandy banks and shores of the Gogra and Choka: is generally seen near the Crocodiles and Gavials which swarm in those rivers; I have even seen it sitting on their backs. The notes of this Plover and the two next species are very loud, and closely resemble one another; when on the wing, in particular, they are very noisy.

126. *SARCIOPHORUS BILOBUS*.

Found in small numbers throughout the year in open country.

127. *LOBIVANELLUS GOENSIS*.

Exceedingly numerous throughout the year; nesting in June. I saw this bird in Kumaon, some fifty miles in the interior of

the hill-ranges, on the river Surgoo. From its noisy cry, this handsome Plover is nicknamed the "Didn't you-do-it" Plover by Europeans, its cry resembling somewhat those words. It is called *Tŷtērēē* by the natives, a name also applied to the preceding species.

128. *LOBIVANELLUS CINEREUS*.

Abundant in the cold season about swamps and jheels; seen generally in lots of seven or eight.

129. *VANELLUS CRISTATUS*. (Peewit.)

Common, in large flocks, during the cold season.

130. *CHARADRIUS VIRGINICUS*. (Long-legged Golden Plover.)

Found in flocks on the banks of the Gogra and Choka, and occasionally on plains some distance from those rivers. Of the numerous representatives of the family of *Charadriidæ* found in Oudh, this is the only one worth eating, rivalling our *C. pluvialis* in its excellence.

131. *CHETTUSIA GREGARIA*. (Keptuscka or Cawnpore Sand-piper.)

Exceedingly common on open sandy plains in January, February, and March. Never seen alone, but in flocks of from six to upwards of fifty. When on the ground, at first sight they appear very like the Golden Plover; but upon taking wing, they resemble *Sarciophorus bilobus* or *Lobivanellus cinereus*, showing a great deal of white in the wings, but flying close to the ground, unlike the other Plovers.

132. *HIATICULA CANTIANA*. (Kentish Plover.)

Seen near the Choka in the cold season of 1858-59. Two other species of *Hiaticula* are common in Oudh, but I did not identify them.

133. *HIMANTOPUS CANDIDUS*. (Black-winged Stilt.)

Exceedingly common during the cold season; arrives in small numbers in September; seen once or twice in August. Is generally observed in small flocks, wading about the edges of jheels, and picking in the water amongst the mud and weeds.

134. *TOTANUS GLOTTIS*. (Greenshank.)

Seen singly and in flocks of up to thirty in number; is most

numerous during the cold season, but is occasionally seen during every month throughout the year.

135. *TOTANUS STAGNATILIS*. (Yellow-legged Sandpiper.)

Very common in the cold season. In habits resembles *Actitis glareola*, being more of a Marsh Sandpiper than *A. ochropus* or *A. hypoleucos*, both of which are found on the banks of rivers; the Common Sandpiper being seldom seen on muddy marshes.

136. *TOTANUS FUSCUS*. (Dusky Redshank.)

Frequently seen in small flocks during the cold season: not noticed in the summer plumage.

137. *TOTANUS CALIDRIS*. (Redshank.)

Exceedingly numerous during the cold season. This bird has a curious way of feeding, which I often noticed: a flock of perhaps thirty or forty will form a sort of oblique line, each one a little in rear of the other, and advance across a shallow jheel, all with their heads down half under the water, moving them from right to left with great rapidity. The noise they make in the water is plainly audible. Probably they feed in this way in other countries, but in India they are so tame as to allow a very near approach without alarm.

The jheels in Oudh, except in the Terai, are always very shallow, seldom more than two feet deep, and not often of that depth. In the Terai, however, they are very deep, and are there greatly inhabited by crocodiles (*Crocodilus palustris*). When there in November and December, scarcely any waders were to be seen, except on the rivers, and very few Ducks. Whether the crocodiles have anything to do with this, I do not know; but if ever one shot a duck or any bird that fell into the water, the natives disliked going in to retrieve them, and needed rather forcible persuasion to make them do so, though I do not think that the crocodiles would hurt them; certainly the "sharp-nosed" Gavial would not. The shallow jheels are filled by the rains, and become perfectly dry by February or March, partly from evaporation, but more from irrigation. When a jheel is very nearly dry, there are more waders than when it is full: as a rule, the shallower the water is the better, as long as there is some. The fishes in these places must bury themselves in the mud, as

directly the rains begin to fill them, they appear, though there may have been no water for three or four months.

138. *ACTITIS GLAREOLA*. (Wood Sandpiper.)

Excessively common in the cold season.

139. *ACTITIS OCHROPUS*. (Green Sandpiper.)

Extremely common in the cold season ; rarely seen in May, June, July, and August : is by far the most common Sandpiper in Oudh ; the Wood Sandpiper ranking next in numbers. The Green Sandpiper is the only one I noticed in Kumaon, where I twice saw and shot it in May, on a small stream near Almora. In Oudh, every little puddle by the roadside, and every pond outside the villages, has one or more of these birds running at the edge, and they are so tame that you can walk within a yard of them.

140. *ACTITIS HYPOLEUCOS*. (Common Sandpiper.)

Very common in the cold season.

141. *LIMOSA ÆGOCEPHALA*. (Black-tailed Godwit.)

Found in large flocks in the cold season.

The Bar-tailed Godwit, *L. lapponica*, has, I believe, occurred in Nepal. *Terekia cinerea* is common in India ; but I never saw one, which is rather singular, as I paid more attention to the *Grallatores* than to any other order.

142. *NUMENIUS ARCUATUS*. (Curlew.)

Found during the cold season in very large flocks on the sand-banks of the rivers Gogra and Choka.

143. *NUMENIUS PHÆOPUS*. (Whimbrel.)

Three seen at a half-dried jheel near Hurdui, in February 1859 ; the only time that I noticed it.

144. *TRINGA CANUTUS*. (Knot.)

Seen near Cawnpore in September.

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145. *TRINGA SUBARQUATA*. (Pigmy Curlew.)

Observed occasionally in the cold season.

146. *TRINGA CINCLUS*. (Dunlin.)

Seen in the cold season in company with the two next species, but was not common.

147. *TRINGA MINUTA*. (Little Stint.)
 148. *TRINGA TEMMINCKII*. (Tem-
 minck's Stint.)

} Very common in flocks
 during the cold season.

149. *PHILOMACHUS PUGNAX*. (Ruff.)

Found in immense flocks in the cold season; I have seen some flocks of certainly not less than from three to four hundred on the rice-stubbles near Khyreegur; those which I shot were full of rice, and were well worth shooting for the table. I never saw one with a ruff; but Mr. Blyth has kept them alive in Calcutta till the ruff appeared.

150. *SCOLOPAX RUSTICOLA*. (Woodcock.)

Common in Kumaon, resorting to the lower hills and valleys in the cold season. In May, I have seen a Woodcock and Monâl on the wing at the same time, and suppose that they breed on the high ranges of the Himalayas. In December, I imagine that I flushed a Woodcock near Khyreegur, in Oudh; but not being able to get a shot at him, or even mark him down, I cannot be certain that it was one.

151. *GALLINAGO NEMORICOLA*.

I saw several couples of this fine Snipe at Moonsheyaree, in Kumaon, at an elevation of about 6000 or 7000 feet, in May 1859. The shikarees had no distinctive name for the bird, though they knew it well by sight. Those I found were in little rushy patches of bog on the sides of the hills, never on streams.

152. *GALLINAGO STENURA*. (Pin-tailed Snipe.)

Common at the commencement of the cold season.

153. *GALLINAGO SCLOPACINA*. (Common Snipe.)

Found in great numbers; arriving in Oudh in October, and departing at the end of March. At Nimkar, on the Goomtee, on the 8th of November, I bagged thirty couples of Snipe in four hours, about five couples of which were Jacksnipes. Is called "*Chahah*" by the natives of Oudh.

154. *GALLINAGO GALLINULA*. (Jacksnipe.)

Found in the cold season wherever the Common Snipe is found, but not in such numbers.

155. *RHYNCHÆA BENGALENSIS*. (Painted Snipe.)

Found in small numbers throughout the year. Like the Jacksnipe, this bird will not rise till nearly trodden upon, and then only flies a few yards.

156. *METOPIDIUS INDICUS*.

Very common in the rainy season ; frequenting weedy, grassy jheels.

157. *HYDROPHASIANUS CHIRURGUS*.

Very common in the rainy season ; arrives in June, and last seen in September. When flying, which it does very strongly and fast, its screams may be heard a long way. This handsome Jacana is included in Mr. Gould's Century of Birds from the *Himalaya*. It is certainly rare in Kumaon ; I never saw it there during the two hottest months in the year ; and there is no locality there adapted to its habits—not even the mountain lakes.

158. *GRUS ANTIGONE*. (Sâras Crane.)

Found in great numbers in the cold season, generally in pairs, though sometimes in flocks, whereas the Common and Demoiselle Cranes are always seen in flocks. Many Sâras remain to breed in Oudh, forming an immense nest of grass and rushes in the centre of large jheels. The number of eggs, which are laid in June, is generally two : some eggs are pure white ; others white, spotted with red at the larger end. The young birds are easily reared by hand, and become very tame and attached to the person who feeds them, following him like a dog. They are very amusing birds, going through the most grotesque dances and antics, and are well worth keeping in captivity. One which I kept, when bread and milk was given to him, would take the bread out of the milk, and wash it in his pan of water before eating it. This bird, which was taken out of the King's Palace at Lucknow, was very fierce towards strangers and dogs, especially if they were afraid of him : he was very noisy, the only bad habit he possessed. The natives say that if a Sâras be killed, its mate will never pair again ; certainly I have heard the survivor calling all night for its mate, and since then I never would shoot them.

The flesh somewhat resembles that of a Goose ; it makes capital

soup, and the liver is considered rather a delicacy by some people.

159. *GRUS LEUCOGERANOS*. (White Crane.)

Though I never succeeded in obtaining a specimen of this Crane, I saw it on four different occasions, at Sandee in February, and at Hilgee, on the river Choka, in December 1859. The first time there were three together, two white, and one dusky-coloured (the colour of an immature Hooper)—no doubt the two old birds and their young. I tried to get a shot at them in vain, they were so excessively wild, which is not the case with the *Sâras*; though the Common and Demoiselle Cranes are in India very difficult to approach, the only way of shooting them being with a rifle.

160. *GRUS CINEREA*. (Common Crane.)

Large flocks of the Common Crane appear during the cold season, and are chiefly found near the rivers Choka and Kurnalli, feeding on the rice-stubbles. This and the next species are much prized by European sportsmen under the name of "Courlan."

161. *ANTHROPOIDES VIRGO*. (Demoiselle Crane.)

Occurs in immense flocks during the cold season, and are found in the same localities as *Grus cinerea*. At Sirsa Ghat, on the Choka, flocks of several hundreds may be seen on the wing at once; their cry can be heard when they are out of sight.

162. *FALCINELLUS IGNEUS*. (Glossy Ibis.) "*Kowari*" of natives: "Black Curlew" of European sportsmen.

Common during the cold season; generally seen in flocks. I have repeatedly seen this and the next two species of Ibis settle on trees.

163. *GERONTICUS PAPILLOSUS*. ("King Curlew" of Europeans.)

Frequently seen in the cold season.

164. *THRESCIORNIS MELANOCEPHALUS*. ("White Curlew" of Europeans.)

Common throughout the year.

165. PLATALEA LEUCORODIA. (White Spoonbill.)

Common in flocks at the end of the cold season.

166. ANASTOMUS OSCITANS.

Common throughout the year. At a place named Kùpser, on the river Kutna, a branch of the Goomtee, this bird breeds in a large colony on two or three tall trees growing on the banks of the river. The nests are immense stacks, or rather platforms of sticks, one above the other, several pairs nesting on each platform, without any apparent separation of the eggs, which, on the 26th of June, were hard set on and of a chalky-white colour, smaller than, but about the same shape as the egg of *Ardea cinerea*. I left India shortly after finding this place, or I should have got some young birds to bring up. The immature bird is of an ashy-grey colour on those parts of the plumage which when adult are white. I have eaten the immature bird, and found it tolerably good.

167. MYCTERIA AUSTRALIS. (Green-headed Jabiru.)

Frequently observed throughout the year. Generally they are solitary birds, more than three being seldom seen together, and very wary. Probably they breed in Oudh, but I never could find out where they nested.

168. CICONIA ALBA. (White Stork.)

Common, especially in the cold season; generally seen in flocks.

169. CICONIA LEUCOCEPHALA.

Common in the cold season: is not so gregarious as the White Stork.

170. LEPTOPTILUS ARGALA. (Adjutant.)

Common throughout the year, though it is thought to be migratory.

171. ARDEA CINEREA. (Common Heron.)

Numerous during the cold season. That handsome Heron, *A. goliath*, is found in Bengal and Nepal, but I never observed it in Oudh.

172. ARDEA PURPUREA. (Purple Heron.)

Exceedingly numerous during the cold season. This Heron

has a good deal of the habits of the Bittern, skulking in rushes, &c. I have repeatedly seen it in India, at the Cape, and in the Crimea, but never saw it in the open, like *Ardea cinerea*, except when flushed out of rushes; then it will sometimes settle on dry land, much in the manner of the Night Heron.

173. *HERODIAS ALBA*. (Great Egret.)

Common from August to March inclusive, and probably found throughout the year. Attempts have been made to distinguish the different species of Egret by the colour of the bill; but the colour varies according to age and the time of year, and specimens may be often obtained with the bill half black, half yellow: the only way of distinguishing them is by the crests, back and breast plumes, and by the size of the birds when not in the breeding plumage.

174. *HERODIAS INTERMEDIA*.

More common than the preceding species, and observed throughout the year.

175. *HERODIAS GARZETTA*. (Little Egret.)

Common throughout the year. I kept one alive some time, feeding it on meat.

176. *HERODIAS MELANOPUS*.

Common, and, like the preceding species, often seen among cattle. This Egret is the smallest of the four; and the breast plumes in the breeding-plumage are few in number, but thick in texture, and scattered down the neck—not springing from one place as in *H. garzetta*.

x = nape
on Iris
1862 p 92
1865 p 37

177. *HERODIAS BUBULCUS*. (Buff-backed Heron.)

Excessively common during the rainy season; always seen amongst cattle. I have seen a buffalo walking along with three or four of these birds or *H. intermedia* sitting on his back, reminding one of an itinerant vendor of plaster-of-Paris images.

178. *ARDEOLA LEUCOPTERA*. ("Paddy Bird.")

A name also applied to the preceding five species, but especially to this one, which is very common throughout the year.

179. *NYCTICORAX GRISEUS*. (Night Heron.)

Seen in small numbers throughout the year, and is rather wary.

180. *BOTAURUS STELLARIS*. (Common Bittern.)

Common in the cold season on the large rushy jheels.

181. *PORPHYRIO POLIOCEPHALUS*.

Very common, especially on rushy jheels and those where bushes grow in the water. This bird can bite very sharply, as I know from personal experience.

182. *PORZANA PHENICURA*.

Very common throughout the year; frequenting small ponds and swamps near villages.

183. *PORZANA MARUETTA*. (Spotted Crake.)

Common in rushy swamps during the cold season.

184. *GALLINULA CHLOROPUS*. (Waterhen.)

Common.

185. *FULICA ATRA*. (Common Coot.)

Found in great numbers on the large jheels in the cold season. I saw one on the lake at Nynce Tal, Kumaon, about the 1st of June, 1859.

186. *LARUS RIDIBUNDUS*. (Black-headed Gull.)

Frequently seen in the cold season, but never in summer plumage. *seen this 1862 p 92*

187. *LARUS MINUTUS*. (Little Gull.)

I killed a specimen of this Gull in its winter dress in January 1859, near Jehangirabad; it was exceedingly tame, allowing me to approach within two or three yards. *1862 92*

188. *RHYNCHOPS ALBICOLLIS*. ("Scissors-bill.")

Common in the cold season in the vicinity of the Gogra and Choka, on the sand-banks of which rivers large flocks are seen sitting in the daytime. I think this bird must feed at night, as I never saw it doing so till just towards dusk, when it was often to be seen skimming along close to the water, every now and then dipping in its curiously constructed beak.

189. *HYDROCHELIDON INDICA*. (Whiskered Tern.)

Common in the cold season.

190. *STERNA HIRUNDO*. (Common Tern.)

Occasionally seen.

191. *S. JAVANICA*.

Very common.

192. *S. MINUTA*. (Lesser Tern.)

Seen once or twice on the Gogra; always (like all the Terns) in the cold season.

193. *PELECANUS JAVANICUS*.

Very common on large jheels and on rivers in the rainy seasons, and settles on trees. Most of those which I saw were in the immature plumage.

194. *GRACULUS PYGMÆUS*. *see ibid 1862 p 92*

Extremely numerous on rivers, particularly during the cold season.

195. *PLOTUS MELANOGASTER*. ("Snake Bird" of Europeans.)

So called from its appearance when swimming, the whole of the body being submerged, and only the snake-like head and neck being seen. This Darter is exceedingly common in some localities during the cold season, preferring rivers and deep jheels. In the Terai I have seen as many as twenty sitting on a dead tree, which was quite white from their dung.

196. *ANSER CINEREUS*. (Grey-lag Goose.)

Arrives in November, and departs about the end of February; is during that time very common, frequenting large jheels more than rivers, whereas the Barred Goose (*Bernicla indica*) resorts more to rivers, and is not nearly so good a bird for the table as the Grey-lag.

A single specimen of some species of Goose, which, from the description given me, I imagine to have been a Grey-lag, was seen on Nynsee Tal in Kumaon, about the beginning of May 1859, probably *en route* from the plains to the cooler regions of the Thibetan lakes.

197. *ANSER BRACHYRHYNCHUS*. (Pink-footed Goose.)

I saw a specimen of this Goose, killed at Alumbagh in January 1858. According to Mr. Blyth, it has also occurred in the Punjâb.

198. *ANSER MINUTUS*, Naum. (Little White-fronted Goose.) *1862*

On the 24th of October, 1859, near Seetapore, in Oudh, I *92*

killed two birds of this species, and saw a third; these are the only ones I noticed. At the time I could not make out what Goose it was, and was unable to find out, till I saw some alive in the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park. It is probably very rare in India.

199. *BERNICLA INDICA*. (Barred Goose.)

Exceedingly numerous in the cold season on the large rivers, such as the Gogra, Choka, and Korialla; is seldom seen on jheels, and is scarcely worth shooting for the pot.

200. *DENDROCYGNA ARCUATA*. ("Tree Duck," "Whistling Teal," and "Rain Teal" of Europeans.)

Appears in great numbers at the commencement of the rainy season, and is then seen in pairs; towards the middle of the cold season they are seen in flocks of eight or ten—probably the old birds and their young. This Duck, when on the wing, has a peculiar whistling cry. It flies very heavily, shows no sport, and its flesh is dry and tasteless. The large species of Rain Teal (*D. major*) I did not observe in Oudh, but doubtless it occurs there.

201. *SARCIDIORNIS MELANOTUS*.

This curious and handsomely-coloured Duck is not common in Oudh, and when observed was on jheels, not rivers. I saw it in May, June, and July; and once, in November, saw a small flock, all in the sombre plumage of immature males or females. The adult male, with the boss on the beak, I only observed four times. In all the family of *Anatidæ* there is probably no species in which there is such a difference in size between the male and female; the former is nearly double the weight of the latter; when on the wing this difference is very apparent. The boss on the beak varies in size, probably according to the age of the bird; in the plate given in the 'Pl. Enl.' 937, the boss is smaller than most which I have seen. The flesh of this Duck is, unlike that of other Tree Ducks, very good.

202. *NETTAPUS COROMANDELICUS*.

Very common; arriving about the same time as *D. arcuata*, but departing sooner.

203. *CASARCA RUTILA*. ("Ruddy Shieldrake.") "Brahminy Duck" of Europeans. "*Chukwa*" of natives; probably so called from its cry.

Very common in the cold season on the large rivers and lakes; seldom seen on the small jheels, except in the vicinity of rivers. Immense flocks, during the day, rest on the sand-banks of rivers, and towards dusk these flocks break up into pairs and disperse in various directions. Should one bird be killed, its mate will not leave the spot, but continue flying round for some time, calling repeatedly. It is a shame to shoot them, as their flesh is proverbial for its dryness and other bad qualities. There is a strange Hindoo legend about the *Chukwa*, the pith of which is that any person who kills one is for ever after doomed to celibacy.

204. *SPATULA CLYPEATA*. (Shoveller.)

Very common on the shallow jheels in the cold season, preferring those jheels in which the water is about four or five inches deep.

205. *ANAS BOSCHAS*. (Wild Duck.)

Numerous in some localities during January and February.

206. *ANAS PÆCILORHYNCHA*. ("Big Duck" of European sportsmen.)

Exceedingly common in the cold season; occasionally noticed in June, July, and August; generally seen in pairs, or in parties of from three to eight in number, and is more partial to rivers and deep jheels than the shallow muddy jheels. This Duck and the Shoveller are seldom seen on the same piece of water; the latter always seeking its food in very shallow water, as also do the Common Teal and the Pintail, both of which I have often killed at the same shot. With the exception of *A. boschas* and the next species, this Duck is the most wary of any,—Teal, Gadwall, and the Pochards being the tamest. There is scarcely any difference between the note of *A. boschas* and this Duck when alarmed.

207. *ANAS CARYOPHYLLACEA*. (Pink-headed Duck.)

Three times seen towards the end of the rainy season—twice

in small flocks of seven or eight, and a single bird—and is, as far as I have seen, excessively wary. The pink head is very apparent when on the wing, contrasting with the dark plumage of the body: immature specimens are not so pink on the head and neck as the adult.

208. *DAFILA ACUTA.* (Pintail.)

Very common in the cold season in large flocks.

209. *MARECA PENELOPE.* (Wigeon.)

Seen in small numbers towards the end of the cold season.

210. *QUERQUEDULA CRECCA.* (Teal.)

Extremely numerous; arriving about the end of September. I know an instance of twenty-three having been bagged out of a flock. Three barrels were fired, and a single one was killed with the fourth barrel. A great haul for the pot this, especially when one is hard up for good food.

211. *QUERQUEDULA CIRCIA.* (Garganey.)

Frequently seen in the cold season; exceedingly common in February and March; I caught some young, half-fledged, in the month of September. It is, I suppose, an unsolved problem where the wild-fowl, waders, &c., which resort to the plains of India in the cold season, go to breed: to the Lakes of Thibet, and the river Yaroo, perhaps. The only wild-fowl which I noticed in Kumaon, on Nynce Tal, were—a single Goose, some Gadwalls, Shovellers, Teals and Garganeys, and a solitary Coot (*Fulica atra*); I also once saw a large Grebe, probably *Podiceps cristata*. These birds only remained on the lake for a day or two; indeed they could not live, the depth of the lake is so great that there can be little food for them, and there are not many weeds except close to the road.

212. *BRANTA RUFINA.* (Red-crested Pochard.)

Exceedingly common in the cold season. Why was the epithet "Whistling" ever applied to this bird? I have seen hundreds, and never once heard a whistle from one. In habits they resemble our Common Pochard.

213. *FULIGULA FERINA.* (Common Pochard.)

Occasionally seen in the cold season, but was not common.

214. FULIGULA CRISTATA. (Tufted Pochard.)

Seen on the large jheels, in small numbers, during the cold season.

215. FULIGULA NYROCA. (White-eyed Pochard.)

Extremely numerous in the cold season; and is very good for the table.

216. MERGUS CASTOR. (Goosander.)

Seen on Sandee jheel, near Hurdui, in February 1859.

217. MERGUS ALBELLUS. (Smew.)

Occasionally seen, in January and February, in small flocks of from three to seven.

218. PODICEPS CRISTATUS. (Great-crested Grebe.)

Frequently seen on the jheel at Sandee and on other large jheels towards the end of the cold season.

219. PODICEPS PHILIPPENSIS. (Dabchick.)

Very common throughout the year, and breeds *during* the rains.

XXIV.—*Notes on the Birds observed about Talien Bay (North China), from June 21 to July 25, 1860.* By ROBERT SWINHOE, of H. M.'s Consular Service.

BEFORE giving my notes and observations on the few birds of the place, it will be necessary to give the reader a brief introduction to the "*natura loci*." Talien Bay (the Chinese word, by some explanations meaning "girdle," and according to others, "united") is the name applied by the British to a bay in the extreme southerly peninsula of the Province of Leautung, where the expeditionary force rendezvoused previous to their campaign in the Gulf of Pecheli. Whence the name took its origin remains a mystery, as it was perfectly unknown to the natives of the place. The bay measures, from north to south, about 9 miles, and from east to west, about 13 miles. The S.E. and N.W. shores are steep and rocky, the cliffs in some parts rising up perpendicularly from the water. In the N.E. angle and on the W. the land gradually slopes towards the sea and forms a shelving



J Wolf del et lith.

M & N. Hanhart. Imp.

FALCO BABYLONICUS